Amendments to the Claims:

1. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising a gene encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide (i) comprises ~~an amino acid sequence~~ a granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor in which a portion of the ~~G-CSF~~ extracellular domain has been deleted or a proliferation-inducing ~~part thereof that~~ domain of the granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor, and (ii) ~~upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide,~~ imparts proliferation activity to a cell, upon dimerization of said first polypeptide.

6. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell carrying the vector of Claim 5.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising a desired exogenous gene and a gene encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said

second polypeptide comprises a ~~cytokine~~ granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor or a proliferation-inducing ~~part~~ domain thereof that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The vector of Claim 8, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A vector system comprising a pair of co-transformed vectors, the first ~~vector~~ of said co-transformed vectors comprising a desired exogenous gene and ~~a~~ the second ~~vector~~ of said co-transformed vectors comprising a gene encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and

wherein said second polypeptide comprises a ~~cytokine~~ granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor or a proliferation-inducing ~~part~~ domain thereof that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell.

15. (Currently Amended) An isolated cell carrying the vector according to ~~any one of claims 8, 10, and 12~~ Claim 8 or Claim 12.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A kit comprising (a) the vector of Claim 5 or Claim 8, and (b) a steroid hormone ligand capable of acting on the "ligand-binding domain" of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the vector.

18. (Previously Presented) The vector system of claim 14, wherein said system is a binary vector system.

19. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell carrying the vector system according to claim 14 or 18.

20. (New) The vector of Claim 5, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is the receptor for a steroid hormone selected from the group consisting of an estrogen, an androgen, a progesterone, a glucocorticoid, and a mineral corticoid.

21. (New) The vector of Claim 20, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

22. (New) The vector of Claim 8, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is the receptor for a steroid hormone selected from the group consisting of an estrogen, an androgen, a progesterone, a glucocorticoid, and a mineral corticoid.

23. (New) The vector system of Claim 14, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is the receptor for a steroid hormone selected from the group consisting of an estrogen, an androgen, a progesterone, a glucocorticoid, and a mineral corticoid.

24. (New) The vector system of Claim 23, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.